

**CLAIMS**

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

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1           1.       A connector, comprising:  
 2               means for receiving a first end of a tubing assembly junction;  
 3               means for engaging a substantial portion of the first end of the tubing assembly  
 4       junction;  
 5               means for receiving a second end of a tubing assembly junction; and  
 6               means for securely coupling the tubing assembly junction wherein forces  
 7       applied along the longitudinal axis of the tubing assembly do not result in  
 8       disengagement of the tubing assembly at the junction.

1           2.       The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for engaging comprises a  
 2       housing.

1           3.       The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for receiving a first end  
 2       comprises a slot.

1           4.       The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for receiving a second  
 2       end comprises an aperture.

1           5.       The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for securely coupling  
 2       comprises a tapered inner surface of the housing.

1           6.       The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for securely coupling  
2 comprises a restrictor.

1           7.       The connector of claim 2, wherein the housing forms an aperture.

1           8.       The connector of claim 3, wherein the slot is substantially parallel with  
2 the longitudinal axis of the connector.

1           9.       The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a plate.

1           10.      The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a tab.

1           11.      The connector of claim 8, wherein the housing forms a slot having a  
2 width that is smaller than the outer diameter of an exit tube of the tubing assembly.

1           12.      The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having  
2 a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of an inlet tube of the tubing assembly.

1           13.      The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having  
2 a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing  
3 assembly.

1           14.      The connector of claim 10, wherein the tab is biased into the aperture  
2 of the housing.

1           15.     A method for securely coupling a tubing assembly, comprising:  
2           selecting an appropriately configured universal connector;  
3           inserting a first end of a tubing assembly junction within a housing of the  
4     universal connector; and  
5           axially rotating a second end of a tubing assembly junction until the tubing  
6     assembly junction is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the connector.

1           16.     The method of claim 15, wherein the step of inserting a first end of a  
2     tubing assembly junction comprises substantially enveloping the outer circumference  
3     of a first tube of the tubing assembly.

1           17.     The method of claim 15, wherein the step of inserting a first end of a  
2     tubing assembly junction comprises engaging an exterior surface of a structure of the  
3     tubing assembly junction with an inner surface of the connector.

1           18.     The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           biasing a structure of the housing of the connector to engage an outer surface  
3     of the tubing assembly junction.

1           19.     The method of claim 18, wherein the structure comprises a restrictor.

- 1           20.     A connector, comprising:
- 2                 a housing having an inlet port, an outlet port, and a tapered inner surface,
- 3     wherein the housing is configured to closely surround and contact a first end of a
- 4     tubing junction; and
- 5                 a restrictor fixedly attached to the housing, the restrictor configured to engage
- 6     a second end of the tubing junction.